



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

Middlesex County *Improvement* Authority, NJ

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Middlesex County (population 750,000) encompasses 25 municipalities characterized by a wide variety of socio-economic indicators. The more urbanized and north-county cities, including Perth Amboy, New Brunswick, and Carteret, have the greatest indications of socio-economic stress. For example, the family poverty rate in the city of New Brunswick is almost 17 percent, unemployment exceeds seven percent, and almost 64 percent of the population are minorities. According to the state, there are more than 775



Assessment Grant

New
2005

\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Middlesex County Improvement Authority for a brownfields assessment grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct preliminary assessments and site investigations of petroleum-contaminated sites throughout Middlesex County. The program will focus on sites, many of which will be abandoned gas stations, that have significant redevelopment potential.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team

212-637-4314

[http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/
brownfields/](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/brownfields/)

Grant Recipient: Middlesex County Improvement Authority, NJ
609-655-5141

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

contaminated sites in Middlesex County. These sites are disproportionately located in the older industrial and waterfront communities in the northern half of the county. Although most of the sites are small, their negative impact on neighborhoods is often large. They serve as barriers to development, harbors for crime, and reminders of the neglect and decline of the community. Assessment and redevelopment of such sites will contribute to the social and economic fabric of the community. New investments in these sites will increase tax revenues, create jobs, and have a ripple effect on adjacent properties.